

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for providing security with respect to who provided digital
2 data at what time, said method comprising the steps of:
3 performing a serially chained certification process including:
4 a) forming a first interval certification at a first server including the
5 server's identification, the start time of an interval chain in UTC, the start time of the
6 interval in UTC, the stop time of the interval, a public key for the interval, a digital
7 signature for the interval, signed by a previous interval's private key, and a digital
8 signature for the interval, signed by the interval's private key;
9 (b) upon expiration of the first interval, destroying its private key;
10 c) continuing steps (a) and (b) for second, third, and following
11 intervals so that intervals are cross-chained with other servers to form a widely
12 witnessed, temporal web of signed intervals of time;
13 encoding certification information in graphical form to form an indicia that
14 relates to the authenticity of the document.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
2 decoding the indicia to authenticate a document.